



Governor's Advisory Council to the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Chapel – Herman M. Holloway, Sr. Campus

November 16, 2017 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Jack Akester, Helena Carter, Thomas Hall, Patricia Hill, Devon Manning, Jim Martin, Susan Phillips

Members Excused: Patricia Ayers and George Meldrum

Members Absent: Robert Daniels, Andrea Guest, Janice Jolly, and Joanna Rieger

Associate Members Present: Bruce Lorenz, John McKenna, and Charles Sygowski

Associate Members Excused: James Lark

Associate Members Absent: Florence Alberque, Lynn Fahey, Lisa Furber, Dan Hoeftman, John McKenna, and Edie McCole

Interested Parties Present: Elizabeth Booth, William Mason, Norm Vetter, Clarence Watson, Pamela Willis, Kimberly Rutland, Felicia Rische, Anthony Moyer, Jennifer Wolff, Erin Goldner, and Whitney Ball

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order/Introductions	Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 9:05am and welcomed everyone in attendance. Meeting participants were invited to introduce themselves and share their affiliation.	
Review and Approval of Minutes		March, May, July, and September's minutes were approved.
Chairman's Report	Chairman Jim Martin reported on shelters that house individuals who mostly have mentally illness/substance abuse issues. He introduced Anthony M. who is from the ACE center in Georgetown and is a veteran from Afghanistan who suffers from	

	<p>PTSD. Anthony M. told of his life's journey of how he became a substance abuse user. He told of his being abused as a child which led him to join the military as soon as he could. It was after serving that his problems with drugs began. Anthony M. went into rehab and recovered and is still in recovery today. How talked about how hard it is for veterans to secure housing especially when it is cold outside. He think shelters should be open 4 – 5 days a week to be effective.</p>	
Director's Report	<p>Acting Director, Dr. Clay Watson reported the long on-going search for a Division Director had been completed. Elizabeth Romero is the new DSAMH Division Director. Director Romero will be joining DSAMH on November 27, 2017, and has more than 15 years as a public health professional. Director Romero's critical skills and talents will help DSAMH formulate ongoing initiatives to combat the opioid epidemic.</p> <p>Acting Director Dr. Watson reported the state of Delaware recognized DSAMH's petition and will allow Peers to have professional credentialing.</p> <p>Acting Director Dr. Watson reported DSAMH is in the process of starting a new referral process in hospitals. This is being developed by the Eligibility and Enrollment unit. The purpose of the new process is to streamline admission for the number of people who need inpatient hospitalization. The new system would reduce the time a person spends in a hospital emergency department.</p>	

Standing Committee Reports:		
DPC Advisory Committee	<p>Norm Vetter reported that the DPC Advisory Committee met on November 11, 2017, and reviewed the status of ongoing performance measures. The committee determined it is important for the community to understand DPC's performance improvement initiatives. There was a question about internship opportunities at DPC. A list of 12 internship opportunities existed at that time that will help educate individuals in the mental health field. Initiatives that were focused on were 15 minute face check monitoring, medication management, and attendance at Recovery Academy which is 77% - 83%. Other performance measures discussed were resolution of environmental issues (maintenance/repairs) and timely admissions based on DSAMH referral process.</p>	
Children's Committee	<p>Helena Carter circulated handouts. Individuals providing Delaware Family Peers Services are adults with behavioral health experience and who have completed a certification/training process. Enrollment as of October 2017 was 15. Families may receive support up to 9 months in their home or the community.</p> <p>There is a brief report that identifies key areas for the State to consider as the Children's Department moves forward to improve services and outcome recommendations in regard to a proposed work plan for DD/IDD children with behavioral health issues. To obtain a copy of this report contact Meredith Tavani.</p>	

	Meredith.tavani@state.de.us .	
Employment Committee	No report given due to the absence of committee representation; however, Pat Hill from “Hope and Dreams” spoke about getting people employed. Her organization is contacting employers and producing a list of possible jobs openings for those with employment struggles.	
Membership Committee	<p>No report given due to the absence of committee representation; however, Chairman Martin encouraged nominations for all 2018 officers. Nominations should be submitted to Bruce Lorenz and Lynn Fahey. Bruce’s email is blorenz@thresholds.com</p> <p>Chairman Martin states membership needs to bolster along with committee attendance. There are still some members who need to complete their reappointment forms.</p>	
Community Services Committee	<p>No report given due to the absence of committee representation; however, Jennifer Wolff provided a list of resources available in New Castle County, Delaware, including food, clothing, etc. She stated that charities are needed 365 days a year not just holidays.</p> <p>Ms. Wolf believes it is the Peers in the community and support of communities that make a difference in people’s lives. She stated meetings are important, but physical support is the ultimate. There are 2 Peer trainings coming up in January and March of 2018. Jennifer provided applications for Peer training.</p>	
Budget Committee	No report given due to the absence of committee representation.	
Old Business	Pat Hill reported that “Hope and Dreams” had 100 new members.	

New Business	A Transition Conference will be held on December 5, 2017 at Dover Downs from 8:00am – 3:30pm. This is a day where parents, teachers, and organizations come together to provide resources to help students achieve their career choices and goals.	
Public Comment	None	
Meeting Adjourned	A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 10:55a.m.	The committee approved the adjournment.